



MBHS PRIMARY FEDERATION NEWSLETTER



Friday 24th September 2021

It has been a very busy week, with Reception starting full time from Monday, open afternoon on both sites on Wednesday evening, year six out at the Eden project, year four welcoming their visitor from the Roman past, and all the other fantastic learning that happens every week across our federation. Year One have shared some of their science learning; please follow the link to our [news pages](#) to take a look.

It was brilliant to be able to open our doors once again to parents after such a long period where this has been difficult (if not impossible!) and during which such significant improvements have happened to both the Millbay and the High Street buildings. Turn-out was good; we really enjoyed meeting those who came, and are grateful for all feedback received; most parents were happy with the way in which their child has settled into their new class, and with the environment we are now able to offer the children. A big thanks goes to both kitchens for providing tasty refreshments, and to the children themselves who made for very enthusiastic tour-guides! Please see our [website](#) for pictures of the open afternoon.

As we explained last week, we used the open afternoon as an opportunity to gather feedback on the walking bus. We are writing to you separately to outline plans to refine the walking bus service.

Some parents were asking about the use of the field on the High Street site, which has not been accessible due to fencing issues. We are disappointed that the much-needed improvements to fencing and security are not quite finished, but rest assured that every effort is being made to finalise the works as soon as possible so that the children get maximum benefit from the outside areas.

We also want to apologise for on-going frustrations relating to access to the High Street site through the pedestrian gate. As soon as the intercom system is up and running, this will be much more straightforward for everyone.

Finally, can we say how pleased we are that we are again able to run trips and welcome visitors onto site to enhance the curriculum for our children. Year six looked very excited to be off to the Eden project today, and we are sure they are having a wonderful time. And our year four Romans looked formidable as they arrived at school today; they will be a force to be reckoned with when they take on the Celts in battle this afternoon! Thanks for your hard work in preparing costumes for the children. And keep an eye out for photos when they come.

Attendance

Here are the attendance results for this week. Please be reminded that children should be in school for registration by 8.55am and the school gates open at 8.40am on both the Millbay and High Street Site. If you are not able to bring your child/ren for any reason, please inform the admin team as soon as you can on the day of absence.

Year One - Leea	90.8%	Year One - Will	93.8%
Year Two - Sinead	92.7%		

Year Three - Miss Gilbert	95.9%	Year Three - Miss Pearse	91.2%
Year Four - Craig	98.8%	Year Four - Jess	91.2%
Year Five - Ian	91.5%	Year Five - Miriam	95.3%
Year Six - Dani	90.2%	Year Six - Joe	99.4%

Well done to Y6 (Joe's class) for the best attendance this week!

Please be reminded our target is 96% attendance for all pupils - if your child is late this will add to the overall rate of absence so please ensure your child is in class at 8.55am each day.

Volunteers needed

Do you have some time you could offer for some practical tasks at High Street and Millbay?

- Gardening
- Painting
- Library organisation

We are keen to work with a team of parents on specific projects at Millbay and / or High Street.

You would need to:

- Get a volunteers DBS (we will fund and arrange this for you)
- Commit to a half day a week for 4 weeks or a Saturday
- Come with a sense of humour and a 'can do' attitude!

We will provide a cup of tea, biscuits and guidance on what needs doing.

If you are interested and/or would like to know more, please email primary@millbaycademy.org or high.st.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk with the subject *Volunteering: FAO Alice Bingham*.

We really appreciate your support.

General reminders

We are a nut-free school

Can we remind you that in order to keep all of the children safe, we have a nut-free policy. This is a really important safety measure. Please make sure that your child does not bring in nuts or products containing nuts; you may need to check packaging to be sure of this.

Parking

We appreciate that drop off and pick up times at both schools are busy, but please avoid parking on pavements at these times. At the High Street site we have witnessed parents parking over the crossing point, forcing families to cross the road in between cars which is unsafe. We have been in touch with the local policing team and they will be supporting us by dropping by at these times to ensure parents are parking safely.

Language and Conduct

We are very appreciative of parents who have been patient with use as we ensure drop offs and pick ups are as quick as they can be. As we are sure you are aware, we are taking measures to keep all the children safe in our care and we will only release children into the care of a known adult. This sometimes means a short delay when sending children home at the end of the day. At this time some adults have been overheard making rude comments or using inappropriate language. Please support us by letting staff know of issues rather than commenting in such a way in front of young children.

Water bottles

Please send your child into school with a water bottle filled with fresh water every day; it is important that they stay hydrated throughout the day. For health and safety reasons, water bottles must come home every night, be washed and refilled.

Coats

Please remember to send your child into school with a coat. We try to get the children outside whenever we can, even if there is a little rain. And let's face it, this being Plymouth the rain can come from nowhere! However, as Autumn presses on, it will be more important to make sure that the children are dressed for all weathers.

Dates for your diary

- Friday the 1st October - Adrianna's last day in Y1 - we are sure you will join us in wishing her the best of luck in her new role
- Last day of term - Thursday the 21st October
- Friday the 22nd October - INSET day for the trust

Contacting us

Contact Books

Please use your child's red contact book for messages that may need to be sent to class teachers; they are checked daily by staff.

Here, for your convenience, are the email addresses for both school admin teams.

- High.St.Primary.School@plymouth.gov.uk
- Primary@millbayacademy.org